

the Government Contracting Area Director will advise the Assistant Administrator for Technology of the receipt of the protest. SBA will provide a copy of the protest to the protested concern along with a blank SBA Application for Small Business Size Determination (SBA Form 355) by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by any overnight delivery service that provides proof of receipt. SBA will ask the protested concern to respond to the allegations of the protestor.

(b) When SBA receives a request for a formal size determination in accord with § 121.1001(b), SBA will provide a blank copy of SBA Form 355 to the concern whose size is at issue.

(c) The protested concern or concern whose size is at issue must return the completed SBA Form 355 and all other requested information to SBA within 3 working days from the date of receipt of the blank form from SBA. SBA has discretion to grant an extension of time to file the form. The firm must attach to the completed SBA Form 355 its answers to the allegations contained in the protest, where applicable, together with any supporting material.

(d) If a concern does not submit a completed SBA Form 355, answers to the protest allegations, or other requested information within the allotted time provided by SBA, or if it submits incomplete information, SBA may presume that disclosure of the form, any information missing from it, or other missing information would show or tend to show that the concern is other than a small business.

[61 FR 3286, Jan. 31, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 31908, June 11, 1998]

§ 121.1009 What are the procedures for making the size determination?

(a) *Time frame for making size determination.* After receipt of a protest or a request for a formal size determination, SBA will make a formal size determination within 10 working days, if possible.

(b) *Basis for determination.* The size determination will be based primarily on information supplied by the protestor or the entity requesting the size determination and the subject concern. The determination, however, may also be based on other grounds not

raised in the protest or request for size determination. SBA may utilize other information in its files and may make inquiries including requests to the protestor, the protested concern and any alleged affiliates, or other persons for additional specific information.

(c) *Burden of persuasion.* The concern whose size is under consideration has the burden of establishing its small business size.

(d) *Weight of evidence.* SBA will give greater weight to specific, signed, factual evidence than to general, unsupported allegations or opinions. In the case of refusal or failure to furnish requested information within a required time period, SBA may assume that disclosure would be contrary to the interests of the party failing to make disclosure.

(e) *Formal size determination.* The SBA will base its formal size determination upon the record, including reasonable inferences from the record, and will state in writing the basis for its findings and conclusions.

(f) *Notification of determination.* SBA will promptly notify the contracting officer, the protestor, and the protested offeror, as well as each affiliate or alleged affiliate, of the size determination. The notification will be by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by any overnight delivery service that provides proof of receipt.

(g) *Results of an SBA size determination.* (1) A formal size determination becomes effective immediately and remains in full force and effect unless and until reversed by OHA.

(2) Once SBA has determined that a concern is other than small for purposes of a particular procurement, the concern cannot later become eligible for the procurement by reducing its size.

(3) A concern determined to be other than small for a particular size standard is ineligible for any procurement or assistance authorized by the Small Business Act or the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, requiring the same or a lower size standard, unless recertified as small pursuant to § 121.1010. Following an adverse size determination, a concern cannot again self-certify as small within the same or

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a lower size standard unless it is recertified as small by SBA. If it does so, it may be in violation of criminal laws, including section 16(d) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 645(d). If the concern has already certified itself as small on a pending procurement or on another assistance application, the concern must immediately inform the officials responsible for the pending procurement or other requested assistance of the adverse size determination.

(h) Limited reopening of size determinations. In cases where the size determination contains clear administrative error or a clear mistake of fact, SBA may, in its sole discretion, reopen the size determination to correct the error or mistake, provided no appeal has been filed with OHA.

[61 FR 3286, Jan. 31, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 47245, July 18, 2002]

§ 121.1010 How does a concern become recertified as a small business?

(a) A concern may request SBA to recertify it as small at any time by filing an application for recertification with the Government Contracting Area Office responsible for the area in which the headquarters of the applicant is located, regardless of the location of parent companies or affiliates. No particular form is prescribed for the application; however, the request for recertification must be accompanied by a current completed SBA Form 355 and any other information sufficient to show a significant change in its ownership, management, or other factors bearing on its status as a small concern.

(b) Recertification will not be required nor will the prohibition against future self-certification apply if the adverse SBA size determination is based solely on a finding of affiliation due to a joint venture (e.g., ostensible subcontracting) limited to a particular Government procurement or property sale, or is based on an ineligible manufacturer where the eligible small business bidder or offeror is a nonmanufacturer on a particular Government procurement.

(c) A denial of an application for recertification is a formal size deter-

mination and may be reviewed by OHA at the discretion of that office.

(d) The granting of an application for recertification has future effect only. While it is a formal size determination, notice of recertification is required to be given only to the applicant.

APPEALS OF SIZE DETERMINATIONS AND NAICS CODE DESIGNATIONS

§ 121.1101 Are formal size determinations subject to appeal?

A formal size determination made by a Government Contracting Area Office or by a Disaster Area Office may be appealed to OHA. The procedures governing OHA appeals are set forth in part 134 of this chapter. The OHA appeal is an administrative remedy that must be exhausted before judicial review of a formal size determination may be sought in a court.

[67 FR 47245, July 18, 2002]

§ 121.1102 Are NAICS code designations subject to appeal?

A NAICS code designation made by a procuring activity contracting officer may be appealed to OHA. The procedures governing OHA appeals are set forth in part 134 of this chapter. The OHA appeal is an administrative remedy that must be exhausted before judicial review of a NAICS code designation may be sought in a court.

[67 FR 47245, July 18, 2002]

§ 121.1103 What are the procedures for appealing an NAICS code designation?

(a) Generally, any interested party who has been adversely affected by an NAICS code designation may appeal the designation to OHA. However, with respect to a particular sole source 8(a) contract, only the Associate Administrator for 8(a)BD may appeal.

(b) Procedures for perfecting NAICS code appeals with OHA are contained in § 19.303 of the Federal Acquisition Regulations, 48 CFR 19.303.

[61 FR 3286, Jan. 31, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 35739, June 30, 1998; 65 FR 30863, May 15, 2000]